(e) whether the Union Government are considering structural changes at the Apex level by setting up Tourism Development Authority;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Union Government also propose to set up mega projects at Hampi, Bellur and Halebeeb, etc. of Karnataka with special focus on Resort Tourism; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d). Identification, development and implementation of Mega Projects is entirely the responsibility of the State Governments. So far, the following Mega special projects namely Bekal Tourism Project in Kerala, Valiakulam Project in Kerala, Puri-Konark in Orissa, Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Muttukadu Beach in Tamilnadu, Diu in Daman & Diu and International Hotel Complex in New Delhi have been identified.

(e) and (f). No Sir, However, for implementation of the mega projects, the State Government of Kerala and Orissa have set up Special tourism area Authority.

(g) and (h). The Government of Karnataka has submitted a project proposal for the overall development of the Hampi site for external financial assistance.

Imposition of ESMA on Hospital Strike

363. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the staff of Hospitals have been brought under the Essential Services Maintenance Act;

(b) the effect of imposition of ESMA on the strike of karmacharis of Safdarjung Hospital; and

(c) the number of Karmacharis arrested after imposition of ESMA?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi issued a Notification on 29.10.96 inter-alia prohibiting strike/agitation of all employees/doctors of Central Government Hospitals in Delhi under the Haryana Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1974 as extended to the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Central Industrial Relations Machinery also initiated conciliation proceedings and finally an amicable agreement was arrived at on 15.11.96 which resulted in calling off of the Strike.

(c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Transfer of Telephone Connections

364. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has issued directions under which arrangements have been made to transfer the local telephone connections within 7 days, from Exchange within 15 days and from State within one month and to set right the out of order telephones within 48 hours;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints received in this regard separately by various communications/MTNL officers from June, 1996 till date which have been disposed off State-wise;

(d) the details of complaints which have not been disposed off as per above directions, State-wise particularly in Delhi;

(e) the reasons therefor and steps taken against the officers held responsible for this; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of the directions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Instructions have been issued. The following norms have been prescribed :

1. Local Shift within 7 days
2. Interexchange shift within 10 days (15)
3. Intercity shift within 30 days
4. New Telephone Connection within 15 days
5. Fault Clearance within 48 hours.

(c) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Introduction of DMU Trains

365. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand to introduce DMU trains on Muzaffarpur, Hajipur and Chhapra section of the North Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Some representations have been received in this regard.

(b) and (c). To cater to the commuter traffic in the area, Air Brake ,shuttles with higher capacity coaches have already been introduced on Siwan-Chhapra-Hajipur-Muzaffarpur section.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Training Centres for Railway Employees

366. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of training institutes in the country to impart training to railway employees;

(b) whether the Government propose to open such training institutes in Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There are 169 training institutes on the railways spread all over the country which cater to the training needs of all the railway employees.

(b) There is no proposal to open new training institutes in Maharashtra.

(c) Does not arise.

Sub-Post Offices in Maharashtra

367. SHRI SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Maharashtra which do not have sub-post offices;

(b) whether State Governments Maharashtra have sent any proposal in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 39,098 villages in Maharashtra do not have Sub Post Office. However, Extra Departmental sub POs/Branch POs are available in 11290 villages in the State.

(b) No, Sir. The State Government of Maharashtra have not sent any proposal in this regard.

(c) and (d). does not arise in view of (b) above.

Capacity of International and National Airports

368. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of International and National Airports In the Country and their daily and monthly landing, taking off and maintenance capacity;

(b) whether keeping in view the vastness of our country these numbers seem to be less and if so, the scheme to enhance their number and to upgrade their standard; and

(c) the position of India in the International Commercial Sector and the names of the countries with whom India is facing competition?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There are five International Airports and 115 National Airports (including 28 civil enclaves) in the country. The number of aircraft and their seating capacity operating to these airports, varies from airport to airport.

(b) Upgradation of airports and other infrastructural facilities is a continuing process and is taken up in a phased manner depending upon projected requirements and availability of resources.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) is developing 12 airports at Jaipur, Lucknow, Nagpur, Indore, Vadodara, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Calicut, Patna, Bhubaneswhar, Guwahati and Imphal as Model Airports as well as Goa and Ahmedabad airport for limited international operations.

There are plans for developing airports at Ajmer in Rajasthan, Lengpui in Mizoram, Tura in Meghalaya, Androth in lakshadweep, Kargil in J&K. State Governments have taken initiative for development of airports at Devanahalli near Bangalore and Nedumbassery near Cochin.

(c) India is favoured destination for international carriers. More international airlines have expressed their carriers. More international airlines have expressed their intention either to operate to India or to increase the frequency of operation.

[English]

Number of AI FHTS Operatings

369. SRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Air India Flights operating from India to Saudi Arabia during a week;

(b) whether there is any proposal to operate flights between Calicut and Jeddah by Indian Airlines; and

(c) if so, since when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Air India operates 18 frequencies per week to Saudi Arabia.

(b) and (c). Indian Airlines has a proposal to provide direct airlink between Calicut and Jeddah. This will be feasible only after the approval is given by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the designation of Indian Airlines as second Indian Carrier for operation of air services between the two countries.